

# A Guide to the Westmoreland County (Va.), Overseers of the Poor, 1788-1915 (bulk 1822-1915)

Westmoreland County (Va.), Overseers of the Poor Records, 1788-1915 (bulk 1822-1915)  
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A Collection in the Library of Virginia 1164130, 1164133-116135  
Library of Virginia  
2018

## History

Unprocessedq

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Westmoreland County (Va.), Overseers of the Poor, 1788-1915 (bulk 1822-1915)

**Subtitle:** Overseers of the Poor Records

**Collection:** 1164130, 1164133-116135

**Author:** Louise Jones

## Publication Statement

**Date:** © 2018 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

**Publisher:** Library of Virginia

## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid created in EAD by Louise Jones, 18 July 2018

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Descriptive Summary

### Collection Number

1164130, 1164133-116135

### Language

English

### Collector

Westmoreland County (Va.) Circuit Court

### Extent

4 boxes

### Shelf Location

Library of Virginia

### Repository

The Library of Virginia

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

## Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

## Acquisition Information

These items came to the Library of Virginia in shipment of court papers from Westmoreland County under the Accession Number 41895.

## Preferred Citation

Westmoreland County (Va.) Overseers of the Poor Records, 1788-1915 (bulk 1822-1915). Local government records collection, Westmoreland County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

# Adjunct Descriptive Data

## Related Material

Additional enter Westmoreland County Court Records can be found on microfilm at the Library of Virginia. Consult [A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm](#)

# Biographical Information

Westmoreland County was formed from Northumberland County in 1653. Part of King George County was added in 1777.

In 1780, the Virginia General Assembly replaced the Anglican vestries and churchwardens of the colonial period with elected bodies called Overseers of the Poor. The Overseers provided food, clothing, shelter, and medical treatment for the persons who were too poor to support themselves or too ill to provide for their basic needs. They also bound out children whose parents could not support them or who failed to educate or instruct them, as well as orphans to become apprentices. The boys learned a trade and the girls learned domestic skills.

In 1844, the General Assembly enacted laws to create poor farms overseen by boards of directors for the maintenance and education of the poor. The boards bought farms and built buildings, appointed a superintendant for each poor farm, and chose a physician to attend the sick and teachers to educate the children. The adults and older children were required to work if they were able.

## Scope and Content

Westmoreland County (Va.) Overseers of the Poor Records, 1788-1915 (bulk 1822-1915) consist of four boxes of unprocessed records. They are Overseer of the Poor Records, 1822-1915; Overseer of the Poor Records, 1880-1903, Box 1, Accession 41895; Overseer of the Poor Records, 1788-1820, 1880-1903, undated, Box 2, Accession Number 41895; Overseer of the Poor Records, 1880-1903, Box 3, Accession 41895.

## Index Terms

### Corporate Names:

Westmoreland County (Va.) Circuit Court

### Subjects:

Public welfare--Virginia--Westmoreland County

### Geographical Names:

Westmoreland County (Va.)--History

### Genre and Form Terms:

Local government records--Virginia--Westmoreland County

## Arrangement

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